REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 1-29. By this amendment claims 1, 5, 7, 15-16, 18-21, 23-25, and 27-29 have been amended, and claims 10 and 26 have been cancelled. Therefore claims 1-9, 11-25, and 27-29 are pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 16, 18-21, and 23-29 were objected to because of insufficient antecedent basis. Appropriate amendments have been made.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1-2 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Nehab (U.S. Patent 6,029,182). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nehab discloses a World Wide Web site data retrieval system that includes an input device for inputting data and commands. The Examiner states that Nehab discloses formatting information of a newspaper or magazing in a computer system where the information includes at least one user interactive element in the form of a hyperlink. However, the user interactive elements of the present invention are not hyperlinks. In order to clarify that distinction between Nehab and the present invention, the independent claims have been amended to recite the following: "the information including a plurality of user interactive elements in the form of location-indicating tags that function in cooperation with associated visual elements of the newspaper or magazine." That amendment should clarify that the interactive elements of the present invention are actually present on the final printed document, not just as hyperlinks on an electronic computer screen.

Support for the present amendments is found in the specification as filed at page 10, lines 37-42:

"A location-indicating tag contains a tag ID which, when translated through the tag map associated with the tagged region, yields a unique tag location within the region. The tag-relative location of the pen is added to this tag location to yield the location of the pen within the region. This in turn is used to determine the location of the pen relative to a user interface element in the page description associated with the region. Not only is the user interface element itself identified, but a location relative to the user interface element is identified. Location-indicating tags therefore trivially support the capture of an absolute pen path in the zone of a particular user interface element."

Further support for the present amendments is found in the specification as filed at page 11, lines 5-7:

"With either tagging scheme, the tags function in cooperation with associated visual elements on the netpage as user interactive elements in that a user can interact with the printed page using an appropriate sensing device in order for tag data to be read by the sensing device and for an appropriate response to be generated in the netpage system."

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

The remaining claims were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of Nehab (US Patent 6,029,182), Greening (US Publication 2001/0012009 A1), Nozue (US Patent 5,845,262), de Vries (US Patent 5,819,032), Smith (US Patent 5,181,162), Shibata (US Patent 5,835,923), Reber (US Patent 6,138,151), Franklin ("A Framework for Scalable Dissemination-Based Systems"), Wiedemer (US Patent 5,860,781), and Dymetman (US Patent 6,330,976). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

None of the above references disclose or fairly suggest the use of location-indicating tags that function in cooperation with associated visual elements of a newspaper or magazine, and where the location-indicating tags and the associated visual elements are printed at the same time. The Examiner cited Reber at col. 10, lines 41-63, as "printing the formatted information on a surface of a surface-defining structure and, at the same time, printing the coded data on the surface." However, the printed codes of Reber are not location-indicating codes. That is, they do not identify their own location relative to the paper page on which they are printed. That distinction between Reber and the present invention has been clarified by the present amendments to the claims.

Generally the printed tags of the present invention are printed so that they are substantially invisible in the visible spectrum (as defined in present claims 11 and 27), which allows the tags and the corresponding visual elements to overlap. Thus special printers are usually used with the present invention to enable the simultaneous printing of both the invisible tags and the associated visible elements. Such a printer is defined in the specification beginning at page 13. In particular page 13, lines 34-35, states that "This printer simultaneously prints cyan, magenta, yellow, black, and infrared inks...." That capability enables the simultaneous printing of the location-indicating tags and the associated visual elements. None of the references cited by the examiner disclose or suggest such a capability.

Dymetman et al. disclose the use of coded substrates that include location codes. However the coded substrates of Dymetman are produced in bulk by a supplier and are then sold to publishers who then print visible content on the substrates. See Dymetman at col. 11, lines 55-62: "A coded substrate supplier could produce sheets of paper in different formats for different uses by the publishing industry." Each sheet includes a *page-id*. The sheets are then bought in bulk by, for example, a publisher, and visible graphic data is then printed over the invisible marks. See Dymetman at col. 11, lines 63-65: "A publisher can buy these apparently uniformly white sheets and can print visible markings on them using standard ink." The publisher must then manually associate each *page-id* with whatever graphic content the publisher chooses to print on the substrate corresponding to each *page-id*. After such manual association occurs, only then is a computer system able to associate a particular *page-id* with a URL or some other page specific information. See Dymetman at col. 16, lines 31-34: "In use, processing device 602 extracts from the image data the encoded page-identifier and page-location data to obtain an item of data (>pid, loc>) and communicates the item of data in a wired or wireless fashion to a local device...."

Thus the process of Dymetman that requires manual association between a *page-id* and visible graphic data printed on the page is very different from the Netpages disclosed in the present application. Rather than requiring such manual association, the present invention enables an automatic association between coded data including an identity of a page and graphic data printed on the page. Such automatic association is possible because the same printer prints both the location-indicating tags and the associated visible elements substantially simultaneously.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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